



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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www.gov.uk/DIO

29 July 2019

Ref. FOI 2019/07499

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 28 June 2019 requesting the following information:

"I've made a freedom of information request relating to the land as mentioned above, located in Norton Fitzwarren Taunton at the Cross Keys Roundabout. The land has been empty and unused for at least 15 years and my request relates to the MOD's intentions for the land and a timescale for this. The land is identified within the *'Taunton Deane Adopted Site Allocations and Development Management Plan'* and is allocated for around 30 dwellings, I have yet to see an application for development.

I have read through the 'Commons Disposal Report May 2019' and the land doesn't appear on it which I was slightly surprised about. I'd be grateful for your response to: the MOD's intentions and timescales for this piece of land."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested concerning the MOD's intentions for this piece of land can be found below:

The land in Norton Fitzwarren at the Cross Keys roundabout has been identified as being surplus to defence requirements and the MOD will commence disposal action in accordance with treasury guidelines, starting with an investigation of any former owner as per Crichel Down rules.

The information you have requested concerning the timescales for this piece of land is information not held.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that the Crichel Down rules are applied to any land that the MOD originally acquired or may have acquired, from owners, through compulsory purchase or threat of compulsory purchase. Under the Crichel Down rules the MOD is required to offer former owners and their successors an opportunity to repurchase the land. The offer is made on a pre-emptive basis, ahead of the market, at full market value.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat